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more good and interesting material therein, concerning Roman triumphs, than he could find in any other place.

Recognition of the insecure foundation on which rest some of the earlier notices in the *Fasti*, is basic. The author leaves nothing to be desired in this respect. His treatment of the ceremonies which accompanied the triumphs is an historical essay in itself; the sections on the *ius triumphandi*, *supplicationes*, and *iovatio* are clear and convincing; his examination of the names of the triumphators is illuminating. The patrician Cornelii obtained 25 triumphs, the Valerii 16, the Aemilii 12, the Claudii 7, etc., while the plebeian families, except the Fulvii from Tusculum with 11, and the rich Caecilii Metelli with 9, obtained relatively few. The tabulation of the triumphs outside Italy, 35 over Spain, 13 over Carthage, 11 over Macedonia, 9 over Transalpine Gaul, and the very few over the Orient, shows clearly where Rome found her severest military encounters.

It is to be regretted that the author has not followed a sort of international understanding that Roman proper names are to be given in Latin form. Appio Cieco, Cinoscefale, Azio (Actium), Orazio Coclite (Horatius Cocles), and Giulio Cesare are good examples of this unnecessary Italianization.

Professor Païs has gone to quite too much trouble to explain the reasons for his edition of the *Triumphal Fasti*. It is a fine piece of work, and will be warmly welcomed.

RALPH VANDEMAN MAGOFFIN.

#### BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

*The Mesta: a Study in Spanish Economic History, 1273-1836.* By JULIUS KLEIN, Assistant Professor of Latin American History and Economics in Harvard University. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press; London: Humphrey Milford. 1920. Pp. xi, 444. \$4.00.)

THIS is a doctoral thesis, or an adaptation therefrom. It should be judged mainly, therefore, with respect to its contributions to knowledge. Unquestionably, Doctor Klein's volume meets the test. A vast amount of new material is provided, together with fresh points of view and suggestions for other investigations.

The Mesta was the organization which for nearly six centuries, 1273 to 1836, managed the Castilian migratory sheep industry. Heretofore that corporation has been charged with responsibility for many of the economic ills from which Spain has suffered, such as deforestation, the decline of agriculture, and depopulation. Dr. Klein points out that previous writers have depended upon the phraseology of laws and the prejudiced discussions of the Mesta's opponents, while he has

made use of materials showing what the actual administration was. Once again it becomes clear—a lesson that all too few writers on Hispanic subjects have yet learned—that there is a wide gulf between Hispanic law and Hispanic practice. We learn that the Mesta was not as bad as it has been painted—though one inevitably concludes that it was as bad as it was able to be. Its era of greatness, however, covered only the reigns of the Catholic Kings and the Emperor Charles V.—less than a century. Before that period, and afterward, it was not in fact so powerful as has been asserted. Another interesting matter here set forth is the relation of the Mesta to the development of the Royal ideal of centralization and absolutism, as opposed to the many disintegrating forces of Spanish life. As a rule, king and Mesta went hand in hand, until Charles III. reversed the usual procedure of Spanish autocrats by inflicting a death-blow on the, by that time, utterly discredited Mesta.

The principal contribution of this volume is in its revelation of previously unused materials. The author has citations to a wide variety of sources, but has depended primarily on the archive of the Mesta, “untouched by historians, for some two hundred years”, until he himself consulted it in Madrid. This consists of about six thousand items, “several hundred of which are stout folio volumes”. The documents cover the years 1371 to 1836, but are especially numerous for the sixteenth century, which is the period most adequately treated by Dr. Klein. This archive, together with several other items in the author’s bibliography, should prove to be a veritable treasure-house for the study of Spanish agrarian history.

In handling materials, and in matters of form and style, this volume is like others of its class. It is arranged in five successive chronologies: organization of the Mesta; the story of its most notable judicial officer, the *alcalde entregador*; local taxation; royal taxation; and pasturage. As a result, much is half-told when first encountered, and there are frequent repetitions. The same faults of construction appear in the organization of chapters as in the book as a whole. There is something in the unconscious hit of one of the reviewer’s pupils who described this volume as “an exhausting treatise”.

Some criticism may be made on other accounts. Titles of books in Spanish are entered in haphazard fashion, with no discoverable rule for the use of capitals or lower case. Scores of accents are lacking, and some at least (*e.g.*, pp. 303, 310, 420) are improperly present. For example, on page 81, of eight proper names entitled to an accent three are accented and five are not. Yet two of the former (“López” and “Fernández”) are used elsewhere without accent (*e.g.*, pp. 213, 215, 264), and at least one of the latter (“Gomez”) occasionally is (*e.g.*, pp. 89, 114) or is not (*e.g.*, pp. 200, 215) accented. Several misspellings (pp. 19, 55, 132, 155, 180, 226) and typographical errors (pp. 35, 78, 108, 189, 279, 293, 413) were not caught in proof-reading.

Most of the above-mentioned defects are nothing more than the inseparable accompaniment of a detailed piece of research. Presumably, they will keep this book from being read by the general public or indeed by any who are not fairly well grounded in Spanish history. For the investigator in kindred fields, however, and for the lecturer in Spanish history, Dr. Klein's volume is invaluable.

CHARLES E. CHAPMAN.

*Ceylon and the Portuguese, 1505-1658.* By P. E. PIERIS, Litt.D., assisted by R. B. NAISH, B.A. (Tellippalai: American Ceylon Mission Press. 1920. Pp. x, 290, vii. Rs. 3.50.)

THIS work retells in more popular form the story already given to the public in the author's learned volumes on Ceylon, that public having been primarily the Ceylonese. It was a laudable thought to present the original material in a shape more intelligible to the English reader, omitting the minuteness of detail which would not interest the general public. The present volume, then, contains the gist of the earlier larger one, and it may be said at once that it is a very readable and reliable account of the activities of the Portuguese for the century and a half during which they were in Ceylon. It is preceded by a short sketch of the history of that fair but unfortunate isle from the time when Rama invaded it, as related in the Iliad of India, to that of the embassy to Rome, the repression of heresy by royal decree in the third century (the Buddhists of history are not so tolerant as those of fiction), and the invasions from the continent, as late as the twelfth century (they had begun a thousand years before).

Vasco da Gama sailed in a vessel of 120 tons to exploit India in 1498 and seven years later the first "Viceroy of India" set out from the Tagus and with incredible speed got possession of Singhalese trade and of the country as well, through the simple expedient of sending de Sousa ashore to tell the king that the Portuguese had come to protect them from their enemies and would like to be well paid for it. The king of Ceylon was grateful and promised the strangers the equivalent of seventy thousand kilos of cinnamon a year on condition that they should guard his coasts from all external enemies. Although the Hindus have fables touching on the eager desire of carnivora to persuade herbivora to be protected by friendly claw and fang, the Singhalese welcomed their guardian guests and even permitted them to erect a stone monument to commemorate the occasion, which still mendaciously states that the Portuguese arrived in 1501 (instead of Nov., 1505). However, busied with other matters, the invaders for some time left the Singhalese to themselves, and when they returned they found the island practically under Moorish influence. The inhabitants, roused by these new protectors, attacked the Portuguese, who promptly drove off the rabble and "erected a small fort". Negotiations were